



Information Sheet

PHC is the most common health care experienced by Canadians and improvements are essential. One of CIHI's goals is to establish new pan-Canadian data sources and information that can be used to better understand PHC across Canada, report on PHC indicators and inform health policy and decision-making at various levels.

Our Vision

Better data. Better decisions.
Healthier Canadians.

Our Mandate

To lead the development and maintenance of comprehensive and integrated health information that enables sound policy and effective health system management that improve health and health care.

Our Values

Respect, Integrity, Collaboration,
Excellence, Innovation

Primary Health Care

Updated Pan-Canadian Primary Health Care Indicators

Background

In 2006, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) released a set of 105 pan-Canadian primary health care (PHC) indicators that was identified through a consensus process as being necessary to measure and compare PHC performance at multiple levels within and across jurisdictions in Canada. The indicators were developed through an extensive collaborative process, soliciting expert advice and stakeholder participation through consensus conferences, working groups, Delphi processes and consultations. The indicators identified through the extensive collaborative process were chosen based on what was deemed important to measure; identification was not limited to indicators for which data sources were currently available. Since the initial release, clinical guidelines have evolved and significant progress has been made on addressing PHC data gaps in priority areas.

Our Goals

Our goals were to identify two priority sets of pan-Canadian PHC indicators and to use broad stakeholder consultations to inform updates to these priority indicators and ensure that

- They are measurable and operational across Canada;
- They align with current clinical practice guidelines and available data sources; and
- They are reflective of priority aspects of PHC performance in Canada.

Approach

CIHI surveyed stakeholders across Canada to identify two priority subsets of the PHC indicators—30 indicators per set—for measuring and improving PHC in Canada. One set was intended to meet the needs of policy-makers and the other set to meet the needs of providers of PHC at the practice and organization level. Indicators within the two priority sets were mapped to data sources in order to assess feasibility of measurement. Data sources with pan-Canadian coverage were used as much as possible to ensure that the indicators could be operational across Canada. Additional considerations included the availability and quality of data for indicator reporting and the frequency of data collection. CIHI established five working groups comprising researchers and data and subject matter experts to review, discuss and update the priority indicators.

The indicators within each priority set reflect key domains of PHC, including acceptability, accessibility, appropriateness, comprehensiveness, coordination, effectiveness, efficiency, expenditure, governance, health status, information technology infrastructure, safety and workforce.

Contact Us

For more information on the updated pan-Canadian PHC indicators or CIHI's PHC Data and Information program, please contact us at phc@cihi.ca.

The Pan-Canadian PHC Indicator Update Report

The *Pan-Canadian Primary Health Care Indicator Update Report* includes the updated indicators, describes the processes that were used to update the PHC indicators and presents technical specifications—including definition, numerator/denominator, inclusion/exclusion criteria, data source, notes and rationale—for each of the 51 updated PHC indicators. This report is available on our website at www.cihi.ca/phc.

Using the Pan-Canadian PHC Indicators

The pan-Canadian PHC indicators were developed and updated to increase standardized PHC measurement across Canada. Jurisdictions, regions and other stakeholders are encouraged to use these consensus- and evidence-based pan-Canadian PHC indicators to support their PHC measurement efforts.

The indicators within the policy-makers set can be used to

- Support population-based policy development and planning;
- Assess the performance of the PHC system;
- Monitor changes over time and variations across health care regions;
- Provide evidence to inform health programs, policies and funding decisions; and
- Identify levels of and gaps in health and well-being of a population or community.

The indicators within the PHC providers set can be used within and among practices, organizations and health regions to

- Provide a basis for comparing performance;
- Support quality improvement programs and initiatives by measuring key processes and outcomes over time;
- Support program sharing and performance monitoring; and
- Identify opportunities for improvements in the health and well-being of the practice population.

This indicator update project is an important part of CIHI's PHC Data and Information program, which also involves developing standard PHC survey tools, data standards for electronic medical records (EMRs) as well as the Voluntary Reporting System (VRS)—an emerging EMR data source—all of which can be used to calculate the updated pan-Canadian PHC indicators.